

Women against gender violence

Workshops, events continue with Tribunal at Portland State.



See Metro, page B5.

The Journey Begins

"Miguel" prepares to see his family after three long years.



See Observador, page B4.

Through our own eyes

Youth photo features Philip Cardova's parents.



See Observador, page B5.

The Portland (AL) er 25¢

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Two Dead in Paris Blast

Two people are dead and 47 injured after a bomb exploded at a commuter train station on the Left Bank of Paris during the evening rush hour Tuesday, officials said. Prime Minister Alain Juppe said an explosive device caused the blast at the underground Port Royal RER station in the heart of Paris. A bomb blast on the same line, which services the Paris suburbs, killed eight people and injured nearly 100 in July 1995 at the start of a wave of attacks blamed on Algerian Muslim fundamentalists.

Possible Ice Lake on Moon Found

A U.S. military spacecraft has found what appears to be an ice pond in a crater of the moon, a discovery that could open the way to a permanent, rocket-supplied human space colony, the Pentagon said. The moon is formed of dry rock and soil but officials say radio beams from a U.S. missile-defense satellite have spotted what seems to be a bed of ice roughly the length of four football fields in the deepest known crater in the solar system.

Lott Tapped as Majority Leader

Mississippi Republican Trent Lott was re-elected to the powerful position of U.S. Senate majority leader. The election came as lawmakers held organizational meetings to prepare for the next Congress, which convenes in January. Lott had no opposition for the leadership post. He has said his goal in the coming legislative session is to bring order to the notoriously sluggish Senate, focusing on budget, deregulatory and tax legislation.

Clinton-Yeltsin Summit Confirmed

The White House confirms that President Clinton and Boris Yeltsin are likely to meet in the first half of next year. The Kremlin announced the potential summit Tuesday, saying the Russian president was eager for talks now that both men have been re-elected. White House spokesman Mike McCurry says Clinton raised the matter in a letter to Yeltsin reviewing a number of issues, including arms control and the future of Europe.

Astronauts Ready Mission's End

The crew of the Columbia is preparing to retrieve a star-gazing telescope following the shuttle through space. The five-member crew stowed equipment and fired steering thrusters to ready the shuttle to recapture the Orfeus-Spas orbiting telescope, trailing at a distance of 26 miles, at 3:26 a.m. EST tomorrow.

New Home Sales Fall in US

The government says sales of new homes dropped across the United States in October, falling at the sharpest rate in seven months. The Commerce Department said sales fell 8.7 percent to an annual rate of 714,000 after a 4.5 percent decline in September. October's sales pace was the slowest since last March, when new homes were bought at a rate of 713,000 a year, and was much weaker than the 772,000-unit rate forecast by Wall Street economists.

Christmas trees with a special touch

Seeing Christmas through the eyes of children is what hundreds of senior citizens will be able to enjoy this holiday.

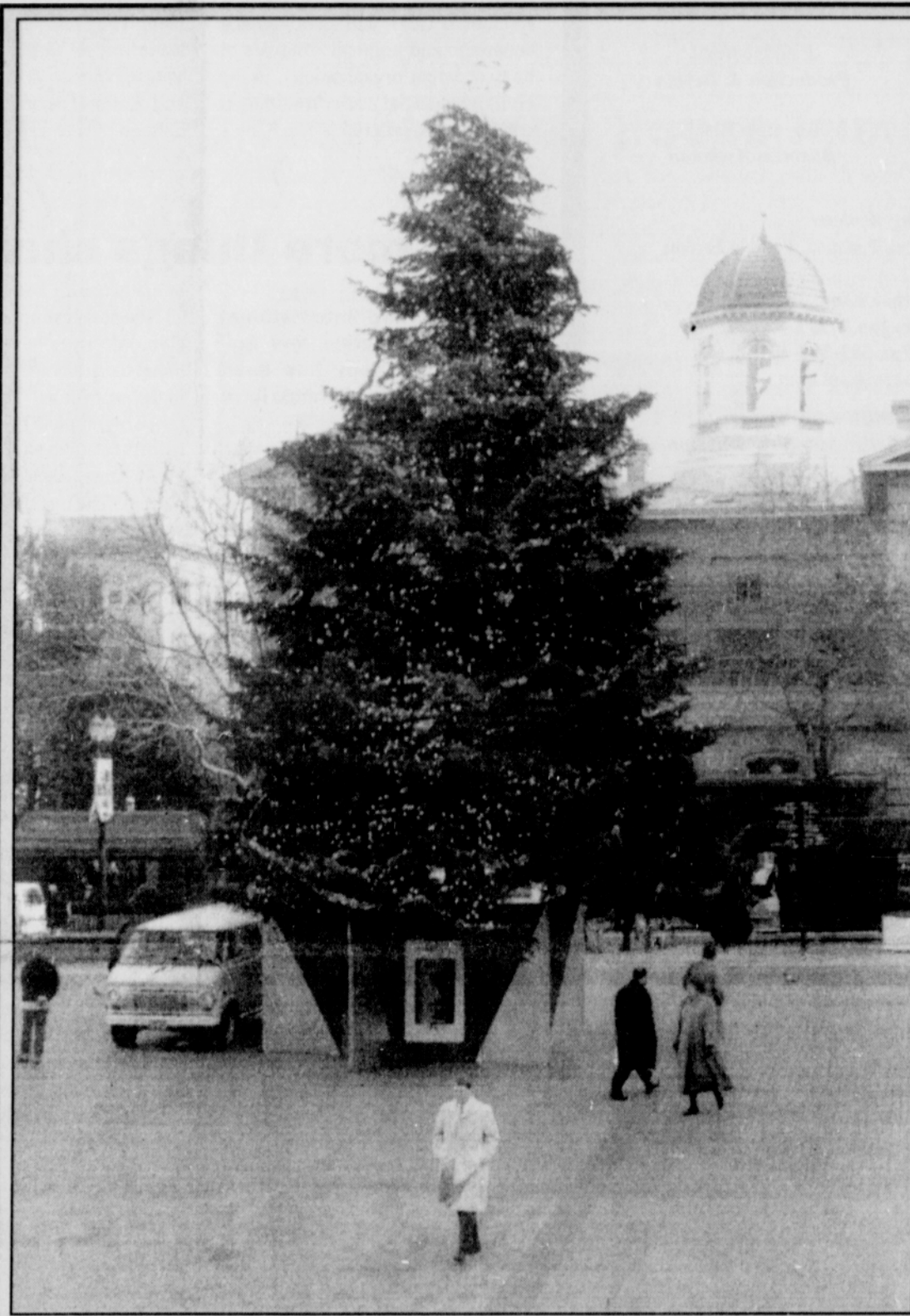
Dozens of elementary school-aged children will bring their handmade Christmas ornaments to the annual Festival of the Trees where they will decorate special trees that will be delivered to area senior centers.

"We feel this is the perfect way to allow children to experience the true meaning of Christmas and create a very special holiday for senior citizens," says Lisa Provost, event coordinator. "It's also a very tangible way to bridge the two generations."

Students from six different Portland area schools will bring their ornaments along with other decorations to the Festival of the Trees, Oregon Convention Center at 10 a.m., Thursday, December 5.

Each of the trees will be carefully wrapped and hand-delivered to senior centers in Portland which will include Providence ElderPlace, Mt. Tabor and Laurelhurst, Glisan Street Center, Adopt-a-Senior.

The 14th annual Festival of the Trees is sponsored by the Providence Portland Medical Foundation. Proceeds from the event will be used in supporting Providence Health System Long-Term Care Division, which provides services that help the elderly in our community maintain their independence, health and quality of life. Last year, the Festival raised \$170,000 to benefit James G. Swindells "Foundation for Sharing", a fund supporting patient care service at Providence Portland Medical Center.



Pioneer Courthouse Square celebrates Christmas '96" with a forty foot Christmas tree. The lighting of the tree took place the day after Thanksgiving.

Photo by M. Washington

Criminal Justice Policies

Oregon will spend over one billion dollars in the next ten years to build prisons and soon will have to spend over one-half a billion dollars a year to operate them," said Senator Neil Bryant, Co-Chair of the Joint Interim Judiciary Committee. "We need ensure that this massive investment in public safety will reduce crime," he added.

On December 12, 1996, starting at 9:00 a.m., in room 350, of the Oregon State Capitol, the Joint Interim Judiciary Committee will present a workshop on Criminal Justice Policies - What Works - What Doesn't.

Joel Garner, the former Director of Research for the United States Sentencing Commission, will analyze how Oregon uses its criminal justice resources in relationship to

other states. Peter Greenwood, Research Director of the Rand Corporation, will discuss how legislation and initiative affect conviction outcomes. In doing this, he will analyze the impact of California's three strikes and your out initiative.

Joan Petersilia, Professor at the University of California at Irvine, will speak on, "If Not Prison, Then What?" Finally, Edwin Zedlewski, senior scientist, National Institute of Justice, will discuss, "The Tools of the trade in Criminal Justice: How Do We Get Results."

"Every state, including Oregon, is struggling to develop a coherent criminal justice strategy that will reduce crime and give its citizenry a greater feeling of safety," Senator Bryant stated.

FirstFridays Second Annual Holiday Charity Gala

FirstFridays, a national business networking organization of African-American professionals.

Chartered in Portland in 1995, FirstFridays of Portland convenes monthly at various establishments in the Portland metropolitan area.

The mission of FirstFridays is to provide opportunities for African-American professionals to network with their peers within their communities and around the country, as well as to organize African-American professionals to take an active, charitable, and responsible role within these same

communities.

The second annual holiday charity gala, an elegant holiday affair that raises money for local charities. Self Enhancement, Inc., and The Black Education Center were the designated beneficiaries of the 1995 holiday gala. This year's recipients will be announced at the gala.

FirstFridays of Portland will be held on Friday, December 6, 1996 at 9:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach, Main Ballroom, 909 N. Hayden Island.

Cost will be \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at the door.

Lumber price increase reflects industry change

The recent rise in lumber prices in the U.S. reflects fundamental changes taking place in the country's ability to provide for its lumber needs, said a wood products trade association executive. The consequences of such changes are now being felt as demand for wood products grows.

Robert H. Hunt, president of Western Wood Products Assn., said lumber prices have increased more than 30 percent since the first of the year as demand for wood has expanded. However, Western lumber mills have found it difficult to respond to the increased demand as they have in the past.

"This market illustrates what happens when you lock away forests from multiple uses and limit the Western industry's ability to meet the country's wood product needs," said Hunt. "Unfortunately, American home buyers and other lumber users are paying the price for the Clinton administration's short-sighted

timber harvesting policies."

Home builders and others have criticized a U.S.-Canadian lumber trade agreement for increasing prices. However, Hunt pointed out, there are other issues which have influenced lumber price movements as much, if not more, than the Canadian quotas.

"The price volatility is the result of a combination of factors, including strong demand in the marketplace, changing buying practices by wholesalers and retailers, an oversupply of wood chips and a squeezed lumber production capacity in the West. The best solution to volatile prices is a stable supply of lumber in the U.S. That can only be reached by addressing all of the factors now influencing lumber prices," he explained.

Federal forests were once a key source of timber for Western lumber mills, which traditionally supplied upwards of 45 percent of the lumber used in the U.S. But since 1987, harvests from Western public lands

have plunged 78 percent. It is unlikely that federal forests will re-emerge as a significant source of timber in the near future.

"Forests in the West have a proven history of providing for all uses, from wildlife and watersheds to recreation and timber for products. But the Clinton administration continues to eliminate all human activity in forests—public or private. It will take some significant changes in government before we see a more stable timber supply and, in turn, a stable supply of lumber for Americans," remarked the lumber industry executive.

The decline in federal harvests has taken a toll. The number of mills operating in the West has been cut in half since 1987, reducing lumber production in the region by almost 34 percent. In 1987, Western mills produced 23.9 billion board feet of lumber. Last year, production totaled just 15.8 billion board feet.

Lumber imports, mostly from Canada, and increased production in the South have made up much of the shortfall in recent years. But, Hunt noted, questions remain about the long-term ability of these sources to fill the gap left by the Western industry.

"In the past when lumber prices rose, mills increased production to take advantage of higher market returns, actions which helped moderate prices. Today, however, due to harvest restrictions in the West and other pressures in the South and Canada, lumber producers are unable to push output much higher," he explained.

Volatile lumber prices not only vex customers, they also have a significant impact on mills as well, said Hunt. Western mills today pay much higher prices for timber than in the past, adding to lumber production costs. High log costs can put mills in an

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